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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

AMEMBASSY FOR PAO/IO

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [CI](#) [BL](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - BOLIVIA: MORALES VISIT OVERSEAS

On January 7, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 116,807) carried an editorial entitled, "An Outreach Tour." Block quote:

"Although Evo tried to calm authorities and businessmen he was insufficiently clear in conveying his economic program and was seemingly unsuccessful in convincing his counterparts.... Washington circles clearly do not trust Morales because he has not disguised his displeasure with U.S. "imperialism," which is reflected in his camaraderie with Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez.... The fact that Morales organized his tour by including some countries with strong economic interests in Bolivia as well as his 'allies' demonstrates a dose of pragmatism which provides room to hope his government will carefully assess the effects of his decisions...."

KELLY